

## Gompers Puts Qualified 'O.K.' On Pier Strike

Head of Labor Federation Modifies Sanction by "If It Is True That the Eight-Hour Day Is Menaced"

Holds Conference Here

Ignores Maher's Threat of Calling a Walk-Out of 6,000,000 Unionists

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, took a hand in the harbor strike situation last night to the extent of conferring with the union leaders here and expressing his approval of the walk-out. He qualified his endorsement, however, with the condition "if it is true that the eight-hour day of the workers is in jeopardy."

While the strikers contend that the railroads are resorting to subterfuge to deprive them of the eight-hour schedule and that the Erie Railroad made the first move by turning a portion of its equipment over to a private owner, the railroads say they have no intention of abolishing the eight-hour day or disposing of their floating equipment and that the strike is inexcusable.

"I contend," said Mr. Gompers, "that the men are justified in taking steps that will improve their working conditions, and if they feel the railroads are adopting means to deprive them of the eight-hour day, whether this is done in conjunction with private owners or not, the workers are justified in taking steps to assure themselves of the continuance of the eight-hour day."

**Conditions Improving**  
Asked what he thought of the idea of William A. Maher, vice-president of the Marine Workers' Association, to call the 6,000,000 trade unionists of the country out in sympathy, he replied:

"An idea. What's the use of talking about it?"

While the strikers were gathering all their forces to tighten their grip on the situation, J. J. Mantell, New York manager of the Erie Railroad and spokesman for the Railroad Masters' Association, announced that conditions had greatly improved and will continue to improve daily.

All the ferries plying across the Hudson, he declared, were running on schedules close to normal, while motorbuses were being placed in operation daily. He said that the freight situation was clearing up satisfactorily, assuring that, despite the fog on Monday, the various lines were able to move 870 carloads of freight into New York. This constitutes 65 per cent of the normal traffic, he said.

**Food Delayed Two Hours**  
The delay in the arrival of milk and foodstuffs, it was stated, has been cut down to two hours, with assurances that in a day or two the movement of perishables into the city will be restored to normal.

The strikers, on the other hand, deny the optimistic statements of the railroad heads, and say that more men are leaving their posts on ferries and tugs daily.

William S. Brown, president of the International Marine Engineers' Association; Mr. Maher, Mr. Healey and Joseph B. Stanton, head of the Port and Terminal Workers, attended the conference with Mr. Gompers at the Hotel Continental.

**Woman Found Strangled To Death in Rochester**

Rope Marks About Her Neck and Piece of Clothesline Give Only Clues

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 6.—Mrs. Francis Lorn, twenty-eight, was found strangled to death in a vacant lot in the outskirts of the city early today. The police have but slender clues to work on, as her husband, William Lorn, said she had left home Sunday night without saying where she was going. A woman reports hearing a woman's scream and the voices of men late Monday night.

There were the marks of a rope about the neck, and a piece of clothesline found under the body is thought by the police to have been used in strangling her. The body bore no shoes and the condition of the clothing showed that the murdered woman had been dragged across the field to the culvert in which her body was found.

## April 6 Big Day In U. S. History

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Today was the anniversary of great events in history.

One hundred and thirty-one years ago George Washington was elected first President of the United States by the first session of Congress, which convened in New York.

Fifty-eight years ago the Union and Confederate armies grappled in the great Battle of Shiloh.

Eleven years ago the late Rear Admiral Peary "nailed the Stars and Stripes to the North Pole."

Three years ago the United States declared war on Germany.

## Caproni Lauds Aviators Who Aided Italy in War

Noted Italian Engineer Is Luncheon Guest at the Flying Club

"American will lead the world in commercial aviation within the next two years. I am convinced of this, irrespective of what happens."

Colonel A. Guidoni, official air attaché to the Italian Embassy in Washington, made this statement yesterday at a special luncheon in honor of Signor Gianni Caproni, the Italian aeronautical engineer, at the American Flying Club.

Major E. H. La Guardia, president of the Board of Aldermen, presided at the luncheon. Signor Caproni was presented to the American aviators who flew his machines on the Italian front. Among them were: Major La Guardia, Paul Zukerman, Raymond Ricker, Jack Wheeler and Cole J. Younger.

American aviators in Italy showed indomitable courage," said Colonel Guidoni. Mr. Caproni expressed his appreciation of the welcome accorded him in this country.

## Gompers Warns of Peril In Attacks on A. F. L.

Says if Capital Ignores Just Demands Radical Elements Will Replace the Federation

A vigorous defense of the American Federation of Labor was made by Samuel Gompers, president, in an address yesterday before the editorial conference of New York trade and technical papers at the Automobile Club, 247 East Fifty-fourth Street.

Mr. Gompers asserted it was not true, as some of the enemies of the Federation charge, that the American Federation does not represent more than 5 per cent of the population of the United States. Twenty-five per cent would be the more correct figure, Mr. Gompers said. He said the present membership of 1,500,000 soon would be augmented by the affiliation of the railway brotherhoods, which will bring the figure to 5,000,000. "And we do not intend to stop there," he added.

He assailed the I. W. W. and other revolutionary elements in the labor movement and warned his hearers that if capital persists in attacking the American Federation of Labor and ignoring its just demands the place of the Federation will be taken by the radical elements, who will pursue different methods and different tactics.

Mr. Gompers attacked the sedition bills proposed in Congress and the state industrial court law put through by Governor Allen in Kansas. Following his address Mr. Gompers conferred with local labor leaders on the pending project of consolidating all the central labor bodies of greater New York into one organization.

## Inexcusable Delays in Aiding Soldiers, Inquiry Is Told

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Discharged soldiers were placed in positions by the Federal Board for Vocational Training as quickly as possible, and without being trained for better jobs, George B. McGovern, of Yonkers, N. Y., a former special agent of the board, in charge of placing men, testified today before the House committee investigating the board's activities.

Inexcusable delays in getting men started in rehabilitation work also occurred, the witness said. He denied that organized labor had dictated the placing of soldiers in jobs.

McGovern told the committee he was forced to resign because of the manner in which the board operated.

## Chicago Yard Strike Costs 15,000 Work In Packing Houses

Union Imports 1,000 Men to Take Strikers' Places; End of Walk-Out Within 24 Hours Is Predicted

CHICAGO, April 6.—Between 15,000 and 18,000 packing house workers were thrown out of employment to-day by the unauthorized strike of switchmen in the Chicago switching district.

A. F. Whitney, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, announced that approximately 1,000 union switchmen from other cities had arrived to replace strikers and that an additional thousand were on the way. Another twenty-four hours, he said, would see an end to the walkout, which had largely halted freight movement.

Denying that the question of wages was involved in the walkout, W. G. Lee, president of the brotherhood, issued a statement in Cleveland to-day giving sanction to any measures found necessary by the union "regulars" to restore normal conditions.

While the Chicago yardmen's union, which called the strike, claimed 14,000 men were out, railroad officers placed the number idle at 2,500. Union leaders said 150 switchmen in the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad yards joined the walkout to-day.

Railroad office employees went into the yards to-day as an emergency crew and handled about 20 per cent of the 45,000 cars moved normally each day in the Chicago district. Congestion was partly relieved by the rerouting of freight trains and by embargoes placed on freight shipments by the roads affected.

Mr. Whitney declared action would be taken to discipline "outlaw" switchmen. "Action already has been taken by officers of the Brotherhood of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad," he said, "and Thursday is the deadline for getting back to work. If the men are not on their jobs by Thursday night they will forfeit their membership in the union, and will lose their seniority standing on the road."

Receipts to-day at the stockyards totaled 100 cars, delivered direct to the yards by the Illinois Central, the Soo line and the Northwestern railroads, which are not dependent on the Chicago Junction Railroad, tied up by the strike. The receipts included 1,500 cattle, 4,500 hogs and 500 sheep, as compared to normal receipts of 12,000 cattle, 40,000 hogs and 15,000 sheep. The United States Bureau of Markets reported to-morrow's receipts would be eighty-four cars.

## Newton to Hear Plans For Fight on Anderson

Conference To-day in Attorney General's Office Will Take Up Assembly Investigation

ALBANY, April 6.—There will be a conference to-morrow in the office of Attorney General Newton on the investigations ordered by the Assembly into the activities of the Anti-Saloon League and its superintendent, William H. Anderson.

A sub-committee of three, consisting of Assemblymen Cuvillier, George H. Rowe and Edward A. Everett, has been appointed by Chairman Martin of the Judiciary Committee to devise ways and means of conducting an inquiry into the charges of lobbying brought by Cuvillier against Anderson and other leaders of the league.

## Amundsen's Dash to the Pole Is Doubtful by Norwegians

WASHINGTON, April 6.—The Norwegian Geographical Society in a cable message to-day to the National Geographical Society expressed doubt as to correctness of reports that Captain Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole and now leader of a north Polar expedition, had begun his final dash to the pole.

Officials of the National Geographical Society familiar with Captain Amundsen's plans said the explorer contemplated spending this summer drifting across the Polar seas in a ship, the Maud, and a dash for the pole in the spring of 1921.

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## Toledo Car Strike Ended

TOLEDO, April 6.—With a working agreement between the Toledo Railway and Light Company and its car operators signed, service, which had been suspended by a strike since last Saturday morning, will be resumed to-morrow morning at 5 o'clock.

The announcement was made by Frank R. Coates, president of the traction company, following an order in the United States District Court which provided for resumption of service as soon as the men could be notified.

Judge John M. Killits fixed the rate of fare at seven cents and two cents for transfer and the wage scale at 54, 56 and 60 cents.



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